conveying the commerce of the world. At the head of the pier, ships of every burthen will not only be distinguishable, but in most instances within hail; and the depth of water will enable them to land or receive passengers during the ebb of the tide.

At Bungay, the theatrical speculation having so entirely failed as to bring the stage properties and theatre to the hammer, the building has been purchased by a company, who intend immediately to convert it into a corn-hall. The building, being in the centre of the town, is eligibly situated, and easy of access. It is intended to throw ample light upon the stalls from the roof, and it is understood that there will be one or more rooms attached, suitable for committees or other parties requiring a public place of meeting.

At Wisbeach, a great addition to the number of houses has been made in the last few months. Several pieces of land have been sold at high rates for building purposes. The piece known as the late Mr. Girdleston's garden, near Blackfriars-brige, has been built upon and graced with the names "Angenoria" and "Ruby" streets. Other new streets are in course of erection at the back of the new parade, in East-field. A stimulus to improvement in domestic architecture has been given by the examples of Messrs. W. and A. Peckover, the bankers, whose new erections on the north beach are now approaching completion, and present a striking contrast to the dingy dwellings which until lately occupied their sites. Mr. W. Peckover's residence is in the old English style, with high pitched roofs, ornamental gables, twisted chimneys, &c. That destined for Mr. A Peckover, though less ornate, forms a more substantial-looking pile, and has a good appearance.

At Lincoln, it is confidently expected that during the present year greater improvements will take place in that city than have ever taken place in one year before, so that mechanics and labourers will be fully employed. The county goal is to be enlarged at the cost of several thousand pounds; the hospital is also to be enlarged; the temperance hall will be erected; a public walk constructed; many of the shops are to be pulled down and rebuilt in the London style, and it is expected that not less than fifty new houses will shortly be commenced. Extensive sales of household property in Lincoln are continually taking place, and generally speaking the prices obtained are exorbitant.

At York, a new lecture-hall for the Mechanics' Institute is about to be built. The money already raised amounts to 520*l*.

At Sandwich, it is in contemplation to erect a new day school in connection with the Independent Chapel in that town. W. Harris, Esq., who upon all occasions affecting the well-being of the poor is foremost to assist, has contributed 100*l*. towards the building-fund

At Burton, in Lincolnshire, a new day school, in connection with Wesleyan Dissenters, has just been completed. The building consists of two stories, with a wide passage in the centre. The upper room is for the school, and is 53 feet long by 25 feet wide. Beneath, on one side of the passage, is a comfortable house of three rooms for the teacher, and on the other side, a room, about 23 feet by 25 feet, possibly for an infant school, at some time. The whole of the common bricks—the front is of stock-bricks—amounting probably to seventy thousand, were the gift of a wealthy member of the Wesleyan body.

THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, DORCHESTER, has been recently rebuilt, under the direction of Mr. Benjamin Ferrey. It formerly stood in a very objectionable position, blocking up the pavement, and at the west, and close to the entrance, were fish shambles. These, by the interference of the Town Council, have been removed. The new building is erected in the Decorated style of architecture: it consists of three bodies separated by arcades; the whole building is finished in a superior manner. The stained glass in the east window will be presented by the Bishop of Salisbury. At present the tower terminates a little above the roofs; but it is intended that it shall be surmounted by a lofty stone spire. The expense of the building, exclusive of the spire, has been about 3,000*l*. The church contains 700 sittings.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT POMPEII.

THE Academy of Fine Arts, in Paris, has received a report from its perpetual secretary, M. Raoul-Rochette, on the present progress and condition of the excavations at Pompeii, in which he earnestly calls attention to the rapid decay by which the exhumation of these remains is speedily followed, for want of due precautions.

"While rendering justice (he says) to the intelligence with which these explorations are conducted under the direction of a minister so enlightened as the Chevalier Santangelo, it is impossible to see without pain the gradual decay of the buildings of Pompeii. After an interval of six years I have found almost effaced paintings which I had previously beheld fresh and uninjured. This ruin, with which Pompeii is threatened, seems owing to the neglect, in the majority of instances, of the most simple precautions demanded for the preservation of paintings; such, for instance, as that of adding a roof to the walls on which they are found; or, better still, covering them with glazed frames, as has been done in parts, and might be done everywhere at trifling expense. For want of repair, however, these frames, where they have been employed, are rendered ineffectual, as I found lamentably proved in the 'House of Adonis.' A general belief prevails in Naples that Pompeii is destined once more—and this time irrevocably—to perish at no distant day; and owing to this anticipation, but too well grounded, there is a disposition to abandon the place to its fate without an attempt at retarding the destruction by measures of precaution, which in any case would cost but little, and which might be more effectual than is imagined. The Neapolitan Government will owe a serious reckoning to the learning of Europe, when the disappearance of Pompeii, daily going on before its eyes, shall have been consummated by the fault of those whom fortune had made the masters of such a treasure. They seem to think they do all that can be required of them when they transport from the old city to the museums of Naples its most important paintings. But how are these very paintings, affirmed to be thus snatched from destruction, treated? They are placed between layers of plaster, and shut up in wooden cases, where they remain for years buried in the warerooms of the Museum. Thus, the paintings removed before my former visit, more than six years ago, from the street of Fortune, and that of Mercury, are still at this moment in their prison of plaster and wood—as completely lost to us and science as they were beneath the volcanic crust, and far more compromised as to their preservation under the present than the former covering. Who shall venture to say in what condition these paintings will be found when withdrawn, at the close of seven or eight years, from their plaster beds? And what, at any rate, can justify this seclusion, for a term so prolonged, of these works in a museum, all whose treasures should be open to the student and the public?"—*Globe*.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.—It appears from a report presented to the corporation that the payments already made in respect of the new Exchange, and the new Gresham College, amount together to the sum of £100,244. 17*s*. 7*d*., and the amount yet required is estimated by the committee at £15,000. A detailed report is promised at Midsummer next.

DRAWINGS BY THE LATE ADAM LEE.—We perceive that the entire series of very beautiful and highly interesting drawings in water-colours, by Adam Lee, Esq., F.S.A., deceased, late resident officer of the Royal Office of Works at Westminster, are to be sold by auction towards the close of April. They consist of plans, sections, and perspective views of the ancient Palace of Westminster, in the times of Edward the Confessor, Rufus, Stephen, Edward III., Richard II., and Elizabeth; particularly, two most elaborate and beautiful drawings of the interior of St. Stephen's Chapel, as it appeared in the time of Edward III., beautifully illuminated with gold, and giving all the elaborate details of the painted glass and architectural ornaments. Also, plans for restoring the Palace, and views illustrative of the coronation ceremonials of George IV. and William IV.

New Books.

The Geometric Tracery of Brancepeth Church, in the County of Durham. By ROBERT WILLIAM BILLINGS. Published for the Author by T. and W. Boone. London, 1845.

THIS is a further exposition of the mode in which the Gothic architects produced by rule their apparently capricious tracery, as before set forth in the author's "Geometric Paneling of Carlisle Cathedral," and should be studied by all who wish to understand the spirit of pointed architecture. The paneling here illustrated belonged, it is supposed, to the ancient rood-screen of Brancepeth Church, and is attributed to about the year 1500. Although only about 10 feet long, and 4 feet 3 inches high, it contains twenty-seven panels of tracery, each widely differing from the other, yet all formed on geometric principles.

"It is satisfactory to find (says the author) that the more we examine Gothic architecture, the more we are convinced that chance was in no possible way connected with the linear designs of construction. The most exuberant richness of contour can, by a careful analysis, be reduced to simple geometric rules; and, in the investigation of laws of description which we have here endeavoured to exhibit, it has been curious to observe how extraordinary an alteration, in the general features of such panels as have fallen under our notice, is effected by a very slight deviation in that most simple of all curves—the arc of a circle."

We propose to represent one of the Carlisle panels in an early number of this journal; and, by means of it, to explain the mode adopted to produce them: in the interim we recommend all our readers who are engaged either in designing or executing Gothic tracery, to obtain the little volume of which we are now speaking. Mr. Billings, although still a young man, has produced a number of elaborate and excellent works on architectural subjects, and is entitled to warm commendation and support. His work on Carlisle Cathedral contains forty-eight drawings; that on Durham Cathedral, seventy-five; and his first book, the Temple Church, thirty-one; the latter, moreover, were wholly engraved by the author, as well as drawn.

The Antiquarian and Architectural Year Book for 1844. Newby, Mortimer-street, Cavendish-square. London: 1845.

THE object of this work, which is to be continued annually, is to gather into one view all discoveries and proceedings for the year, both in primeval and mediæval antiquities; to afford notices of new ecclesiastical structures, and the restoration of buildings of the same character, where the erection or adaptation are of sufficient magnitude to warrant description; and to supply information on important works on antiquities and architecture, published during the year.

We think the idea a good one, and cordially wish success to the attempt. Nor indeed is there any reason to doubt it, for, as the editor remarks in his preface:—"No time can be more propitious for the publication of such a volume than the present. Our national monuments, nay every relic of our country which has undergone the baptism of years, is regarded with an interest which, though perhaps newly, has nevertheless been powerfully, awakened. Antiquity and the study of it is no longer exclusive, and antiquarians have ceased to be objects of contempt, or, to speak mildly, of derision. Antiquity has become popular: It has found its way out of the libraries of the learned, and made for itself an abiding place in the book closet of the man of business—of the poor scholar—of the artist. It is among all and with all. Its professors find honour among us, and they who study any of its multiform divisions are regarded with more than common attention, and their labours looked upon with interest. Every literary effort, therefore, which has for its object the illustration of the past for the better knowledge of the present or the future, is likely to be received into favour, and its efforts crowned with success."

The present volume is dedicated, with great propriety, to "John Britton, Esq., F.S.A., as a slight acknowledgment of the high estimation

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